

**Gambling Control Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 27, 2008**  
**45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, Maine**

Meeting opened at 12:35 p.m.

**Board members present:** Chairman George McHale, Larry Hall and Cushing Samp  
Peter Danton Absent. One vacancy exists on the Board.

**Staff members present:** Exec. Director Robert Welch, Det. Don Armstrong, Auditor Scott Woods and  
Secretary Kathy Chamberlain.

**Legal counsel:** Melissa O'Dea, Ass't Attorney General

- **Minutes from February 20, 2008 meeting:**

**Motion to accept:** Cushing Samp moved to accept the minutes from the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Seconded:** Larry Hall

**Vote:** 3-0

- **Executive Director's Report – Robert Welch**

Mr. Welch reported that the unit is very busy with many renewal applications coming in.

Problem Gaming Week Report: an ad was run in both the Bangor Daily News and Portland Press Herald. Costs for the ads were \$200 less than budgeted. Dr. Broffman gave a seminar at USM with very good attendance. Discussion included youth gambling, elderly and internet gambling. Mr. Welch attended the Maine Sheriff's Association Meeting on 3/20/2008 and presented the Problem Gaming Program to them. He asked the Sheriffs if they would give the Problem Gaming materials to their mental health providers in their county jails, to provide for the inmates getting out of jail. Commissioner Jordan asked Mr. Welch if he would get the brochures to the courts, jails and probation offices. Day One has not had anyone sign up for their gambling addiction program. Mainers can now call 2-1-1 for assistance and be referred to resources for help with gambling addiction problems.

The public hearing on LD 2261 for the Oxford County Racino will be held on 4/2/2008 at 1:00 p.m..

The self-exclusion list at Hollywood Slots is adhered to vehemently by the Security at the Racino. If someone does manage to get in, they are escorted out and Bangor P.D. is called and a warning issued for criminal trespass.

Budget issues: a bill was killed by the Appropriations Committee that would require an accounting report to the Board, from the non state entities receiving monies from the Racino revenue.

Mr. Danton, Board member, has withdrawn his name for renomination to the Board. He will be serving until replaced. Richard Arnold's hearing and confirmation was held this morning, and he will need to be sworn in.

- **Financial Update – Scott Woods**

Mr. Woods continues to examine tax returns for the State Police, sent in by renewal applicants. The bad weather did wreak a little havoc on some days at the Racino as numbers were down, but things are starting to pick up again. In response to a question from a board member, Mr. Woods stated that a Tax Form W2G needs to be completed if someone wins \$1200 or more.

- **State Police Activity Update – Det. Don Armstrong**

Sgt. Parker is in Georgia, conducting a key executive interview. Since the February meeting, 62 applications have been received for processing: six vendors, three business entities, fourteen key executives, thirty-five licensed employees and four non-licensed employees. The background investigation continues on Centerbridge and Fortress. Sgt. Parker and Det. Armstrong will be going to New York in two weeks, to conduct interviews of the eight key executives involved.

- **Unfinished Business**

Draft of Policy #9 for the Rounding of Racino Revenue

**Motion:** by Cushing Samp to adopt the Policy as written

**Seconded:** by Larry Hall

**Vote:** 3-0

- **New Business**

There are press tours conducted at the new Racino site about every six weeks. Mr. Welch inquired if the Board would like to have a meeting in Bangor in May and a tour of the facility? Will be discussed at the April meeting.

- **Public Comments**

Jon Johnson, general manager of Hollywood Slots, advised the Board the new facility project is on time, on budget, and the carpeting will be down soon. In mid-April, the bases for the slot machines will be put in, and by May 1<sup>st</sup> the H.S. security will be taking over at the permanent facility. The plan is to close the temporary facility the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> and reopen the evening of the 30<sup>th</sup>, with a grand opening on Tuesday, July 1st. H.S. will be hiring 300 more employees.

- **Next meeting date – April 17, 2008**

**Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Chamberlain  
Secretary